

# The Rubbish RESOURCE



A Publication of the N.H. Department of Environmental Services Waste Management Division

Spring 2000

## TURNKEY LANDFILL: MEETING ITS PERMITTED LIFE SPAN



Waste Management Inc's Turnkey facility in Rochester, New Hampshire is vital to New Hampshire's overall solid waste disposal capacity. In 1998, this landfill accepted over 1,000,000 tons of municipal solid waste (MSW), or nearly 60% of the total MSW disposed of in New Hampshire in 1998.

Beginning in 1996, the Department expressed concern about the total annual amount of solid waste being disposed of at the Turnkey Landfill. Due to the region's limited solid waste disposal capacity, Turnkey is an important waste disposal asset and receives a significant amount of waste from neighboring states. However, projections indicated that the facility might not reach its

permitted fifteen year lifespan, leaving New Hampshire in need of finding additional landfill capacity sooner than expected. In the summer of 1999, DES worked with Waste Management, Inc. to modify the facility's permit to further define the annual amount of waste entering Turnkey. One of the results was the inclusion of an annual utilization (consumption) schedule of Turnkey's permitted airspace. The schedule clearly laid out how much waste could be taken by Turnkey on an annual basis for the remainder of its operating life, as well as remedial measures to be exercised by Waste Management, Inc. in the event excess waste is accepted.

Beyond extending the life of the facility, the permit modification has resulted in Waste Management, Inc. reducing the amount of waste imported from other states into the Turnkey facility. Initial data from 1999 indicates that the facility received 458,000 tons of MSW from out of state, which is 173,000 tons less than in 1998, bringing the ratio of New Hampshire waste to imported waste to an approximate 50:50 mix. In 1998, the ratio was approximately 60:40 in favor of imported waste. The net effect is to preserve more of New Hampshire's solid waste capacity for its own residents and to require other states and their waste management companies to address the issue of limited capacity within their jurisdictions.

### UPCOMING SOLID WASTE FACILITY OPERATOR WORKSHOPS

Surviving An Inspection From the NH Department of Labor	June 8	8:30am-12pm
Forklift Operator Safety	June 22	9:00am-1pm
The Status of Solid Waste Hauling in NH	July 18	8:30am-12pm
Littleton Transfer Station Workshop & Tour	August 2	9:30am-12pm
3 Day Household Hazardous Waste Course	August 23-24	8:00am-4pm

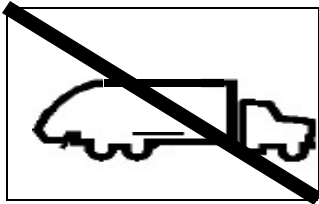
To obtain additional information or to register for any of these workshops, please contact Patricia Hannon at (603) 271-2928, e-mail to [phannon@des.state.nh.us](mailto:phannon@des.state.nh.us), or on the internet at: [www.des.state.nh.us/pcas](http://www.des.state.nh.us/pcas).



### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

This year, the DES Solid Waste Conference will be held on September 20th at Yoken's Conference Center in Portsmouth, NH.

TO IMPORT OR TO EXPORT



In the past year, considerable attention has been paid to the issue of the flow of trash across state borders, and the need to balance those concerns with the industry concept of regional solid waste facilities. New Hampshire has been a net importer for several years; we import more disposable trash than we export. This is common to many states, especially Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania. These states, as well as many others, may also see a share of the 13,000 tons per day resulting from the closure of the Fresh Kills Landfill of New York in 2001. Due to the Interstate Commerce Clause, a state cannot legally restrict the movement of trash over state borders. This has been problematic for states hoping to place limits on the amount of imports.

How much trash do we import in New Hampshire? The level of imports has dropped considerably from the 742,000 tons we experienced in 1998. We are currently accepting about 534,000 tons of MSW for 1999. Why the difference? Primarily, the Turnkey Facility in Rochester has diverted tonnage to other facilities outside the state, in particular, the trash that previously had been accepted from Somerville, MA. The Turnkey action is a result of the permit modification (see page 1) that specifies yearly tonnage, as well as a response to the concerns generated in the public, the media and the NH Legislature over New Hampshire’s role as a “dumping ground” for the Northeast.

What about exporting? We have consistently remained at a level less than 100,000 tons per year for several years, with the majority of the trash delivered to incinerators in Massachusetts (Ogden Martin and Seamass) and Maine (M.E.R.C.). Interest in long-hauling, which is the practice of transporting to distant states, is growing in response to increased gate and contract fees (average of \$59.17 per ton in New Hampshire according to the 1999 Solid Waste Digest). It is interesting to note that New Hampshire exports minimal amounts to Vermont due in part to their \$6.00 per ton franchise fee (surcharge) on trash, as well as imposed standards for waste management on all users of their facilities (e.g., certain requirements for household hazardous waste collections). The Planning and Community Section of DES was recently asked by the Governor’s Solid Waste Task Force to characterize the capacity of other states that have solid waste disposal facilities available for New Hampshire waste. Mapping has been completed and the drafts are currently being reviewed by other states, and they will soon be available on DES’s website.

However, when considering the export option, remember the state philosophy that we should be capable of managing the waste we generate, and that in-state options should always be considered before long-hauling activities. If you are looking into long-hauling, contact the Department at 271-2900 and ask for our **hauler list**, and the regional facility map, or visit our website at: [www.des.state.nh.us/pcas](http://www.des.state.nh.us/pcas).

Staff Changes....

Ray Gordon, who managed the State’s Household Hazardous Waste Program, is moving on to a supervisory position in the Department’s Reporting and Information Section. Good luck Ray, and thanks for all your hard work! We will announce the new HHW Coordinator in the next issue of *The Rubbish Resource*.

REMINDER

SOLID WASTE ANNUAL FACILITY REPORTS WERE DUE AT DES ON MARCH 31, 2000!  
Call DES (271-2900) to receive forms or with questions.

PERMIT NO. 1478  
CONCORD NH 03301  
PAID  
U.S. POSTAGE  
BULK RATE

Waste Management Division  
6 Hazen Drive  
Concord NH 03301-6509

